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SOLDIERS MONUMENT, JACKSONVILLE, ILLS.

MORGAN COUNTY SOLDIERS' MONUMENT UNVEILED.

With imposing ceremonies the Morgan county monument to heroes of the war of the Rebellion was dedicated Monday afternoon, Nov. 8, 1920. Unfavorable weather made it necessary to abandon the original plan for the ceremonial in Central park, with the attendant unveiling of the monument, and instead the program was carried out at Centenary church. There S. W. Nichols as president of the Monument Association, presided. The main address of the day was by Congressman Richard Yates. Dr. C. H. Rammelkamp made a statement in behalf of the Monument Association, while Horace H. Bancroft, representing Commander Wigginjost of Matt Starr Post, made the response for the veterans. The response for the public was by Judge H. P. Samuell.

The monument is the work of Leonard Crunelle the celebrated Chicago sculptor.

The audience was led in singing by Rev. W. E. Collins. The pulpit was adorned with flags and on either side were portraits of generals famous in the days of '61. It was an intensely patriotic occasion and the addresses were of a most fitting kind. Mr. Nichols as chairman of the occasion, made brief reference to the history of the monument movement and expressed the appreciation of the old soldiers for the interest the public has continually manifested in the monument project. He then presented Mrs. Nellie McDougall James, Mrs. Myrtle Swales Freeman and Miss Helen Paschall as members of the immediate family of old soldiers prominently identified with the work which made the monument possible.

"America" was sung and Chaplain Ezra Scott of Matt Starr Post offered prayer.

A LANDMARK IN HISTORY.

Dr. C. H. Rammelkamp spoke on behalf of the county board and the Monument Association. He said, among other

things: "We have met this afternoon to honor the men and women who saved the union and abolished slavery. The Civil War, I need hardly remind you, is one of the great landmarks in the history of the United States, and of the world. I am thinking of course, not only of the military operations of the war, but of everything for which that war stands in history—of the years of struggle, long before 1861, in the halls of congress and among the people, of the loyalty and bravery, the sacrifice and suffering of the terrible four years and of the tremendous issues involved; of the great leaders, who in both civil and military life, fought for the principles which triumphed at Appomatox. I am thinking of the great waves of influence radiating from Appomatox to the uttermost parts of the earth. Not only was our union saved, and our own slaves freed, but the cause of democratic government and freedom was strengthened throughout the world.

"Morgan county and Jacksonville had a great part in that great epoch, and I am sure that as the people of today look upon that monument, that hearts will beat a little faster, they will be a little more patriotic, more courageous, more unselfish, incidentally, better Americans.

"Aside from these facts, the monument means much to our community. It is a great work of art and it adds beauty and distinction to our square and to the whole city.

REGRET FOR THE ABSENT.

"It is indeed a pleasure and privilege on behalf of the commissioners of Morgan county to present this monument to the Grand Army of the Republic and to the citizens of the county. As the movement for the monument progressed, there were some misunderstandings, but all these were cleared away and are now forgotten. Today we have but one regret—that Major McDougall, Capt. Swales, Capt. Wright, Judge Orear and Hassel Hopper, who were identified with the association work, did not live to see the realization of their plans. But we are glad that the many other veterans are still with us
* * * * *

"So, Mr. Chairman, we hope we have added something noteworthy to the uplifting influences working upon the minds

and hearts of our people. We hope that strong granite figure of Patriotism, on the east side of the monument, answering the call to arms, may strengthen us to answer every call to patriotic duty. We hope that fine figure of Sacrifice on the west, offering her choicest gifts to the great cause, may inspire us to sacrifice on the altar of our country. We hope that stately, beautiful figure of Columbia, crowning all and gazing in the direction in which the boys of '61 marched, typifying the spirit of America, may call us all to a better, nobler citizenship than we have ever known.

"Again on behalf of the commissioners of Morgan county, I present this monument to the citizens who gave it, and to the men and women whose memory it will perpetuate."

Chairman Nichols at this point made mention that the association was greatly obligated to Commissioners Wheeler and Wyatt for many courtesies extended to them in past months. The chairman announced that Horace H. Bancroft, representing Commander Wigginjost of Matt Starr Post, would make response for the veterans. Mr. Bancroft made a most appropriate address, which gave evidence of his own fine patriotism and admiration for the heroes of the war. He said in part:

A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

"I am privileged to stand in your presence this afternoon in response to the request of the small remaining membership of Matt Starr post, that organization of Union veterans that have been the life blood of this community for the last fifty years.

"I feel deeply the responsibility for my utterance because I must speak in behalf of the dead as well as the living and I know full well that were it not for the fact that some who were most active in this enterprise at its inception have been called in very recent months to join the silent majority up yonder, another more worthy than I would now address you.

"War is a dreadful thing, but we cannot escape the solemn fact of history that civilization has made its progress through the struggles of men on the field of battle.

"The union cause represented a great crisis in our national life and the defenders of that cause were contributors

to a new and a better day in American history. They served, they sacrificed, they died that the Union might not be dissolved and victory came at last. For many of the survivors of the internecine struggle the days of health, of happiness and prosperity have been many, and we rejoice that it has been so.

“Gratitude to the veterans of the Civil war has found expression in various ways and at various times and today, far removed from the time of the conflict and from its pain and its passion the present generation of Morgan county takes occasion to add its testimonial of appreciation. This magnificent and expressive monument of granite and bronze stands forth in splendid grandeur, a tribute to heroes living and dead.

“With somewhat faltering step but with unfaltering faith in God, in country and in their fellow citizens the surviving soldiers of the sixties accept this monument erected to their memory in the true spirit of patriotism. When the last taps shall be sounded and the final salute fired for the last surviving veteran of the Civil war, this emblem will remain a token of regard and undying devotion for a glorious company who fought in a glorious fight.

AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE.

“The veterans of today and yesterday accept this monument as the visible and enduring expression of community gratitude and affection. Here in solemn grandeur it will ever stand significant of ‘a world of memories, a world of deeds, a world of tears and a world of glories.’

“Who but the Searcher of all hearts and the Author of all wisdom can know the full measure of devotion given to this enterprise by Major McDougall and Captain Swales. Patience, perseverance, faith and courage animated them in all their efforts toward successful accomplishment. They are not here today but surely their works do follow them.

“Here this monument will forever stand, magnificent, beautiful, rich in artistic expression, the embodiment of the gratitude of a truly grateful people.

The response for the public was made by Judge H. P. Samuell, who eloquently expressed the appreciation of the public for the beautiful monument of granite and bronze and for the task performed by the veterans.

HONOR TO THE PRIVATE.

He said, in part: "Morgan county occupies a proud place in the history of Illinois. Her patriotism, her pioneer work in education and the preferred place given to the development of religious life and institutions have helped make this good name. That history shows the love of country of our early citizens, the heroism manifested in war times, and you are all familiar with the nobility and progressive spirit shown by the citizens of this county in times of peace. All these characteristics are milestones which time cannot efface.

"Morgan county can claim many brilliant men and finds credit in consideration of their names, but the monument that the people of this county have erected gives credit not only to the brilliant leaders but to the private in the ranks—those men who went to war because of their belief in the righteousness of the cause—these men who laid down their lives that the nation might exist.

"So Morgan county accepts this monument as a book mark in the leaves of time and hopes that the people of today and other days, living under the traditions of noble men who preserved liberty and freemen, may so continue to live that when we have passed that we may receive that commendation of 'Thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the kingdom.' "

The principal address of the occasion was delivered by Congressman Richard Yates. It was indeed fitting that the son of Illinois' great "war governor" should be chosen as the orator for this occasion, and the veterans rightly counted themselves fortunate in his presence. Mr. Yates in Centenary church was standing on historic ground, for it was there that as a child and youth, he attended Sunday school and church services and the old edifice holds for him many hallowed memories.

In his opening remarks the speaker made personal reference to his father and related several incidents to show the impression made upon him as a lad by war events, and to indicate too the stress in which the war governor lived as the soldiers of Illinois took their heroic part upon the battlefield. The part that Governor Yates had in the stirring events of those days is a matter of history, one of the proud pages in the records of the state, and reference to personal incidents had a very proper place in the introductory remarks of the speaker.

Mr. Yates, an orator of fine ability, was at his best. He said, in part:

THE "GREAT REBELLION."

Fellow citizens, it was reserved for one controversy—1861-1865—to develop so much havoc to life, to tear such gaps in the ranks of manhood, to harrow so many homes with heartbreak, and to create so much of courage and patriotism and of zeal as to contribute the main interest to this day and occasion. For this hour the thoughtful elders of this nation live again in the tumultuous times of 1861, typified by this monument.

Visions of fast-rushing events rise today in the mind of the elderly man. He remembers the preliminary excitement. The country convulsed from day to day by ominous occurrences. This state trembled beneath the mighty blows struck by renowned champions of public opinion. Every community stirred to its foundations in the mighty crisis.

Abraham Lincoln said: "I turn to look for help to the great American people and to that God who has never forsaken them."

THE GRANDEST VICTORY.

Ladies and gentlemen, you and I know that Abraham Lincoln received the help that he prayed for; received it from 20,000,000 loyal hearts and from the Infinite Power on high. Abraham Lincoln put one hand into the outstretched palm of the American people. With the other he laid a strong hold on the almighty arm of the Almighty God. And standing

there, supported by humanity and supported by Divinity, he fought the grandest fight and won the grandest victory the human race has ever seen since the Savior walked amid the sons of men.

But meanwhile the crash comes. A rebel congress assembles. Confederates armies and legislatures are formed and fire is opened upon and against that devoted place, Fort Sumpter. The patience of the Union's friends can stand no more. The forbearance of even the chief magistrate is exhausted. Sorrowfully he turns from the despairing presence of the angel of peace and reluctantly beckons to the majestic spirit of war. The peaceful people respond as though called to participate in a summer spectacle. Every city and county tenders its company, every district its regiment, every state its batteries. A hundred thousand freemen stand in serried ranks within a fortnight and all doubts are allayed, the safety of the nation and the protection of the government is assured. The president, encouraged, telegraphs to the governor of Illinois, who is urging him to accept still more men, "Hold still, Dick, and see the salvation of the Lord."

Christendom stands astounded at the vigor of the struggle and the spirit of the combatants. Educated to believe that its prosperity depends upon slavery, the gallant south rushes to the front to fight against fancied wrong. Convinced by training, tradition, and theology, the north earnestly arms for the fray.

Noble men of sixty-one! Stephen A. Douglas stands in Chicago saying, "Before God, my conscience is clear, I have struggled along for a peaceful solution; the return we receive is war; there are only two sides to this question; there can be no neutrals in this war—only patriots or traitors."

All honor to Stephen A. Douglas. But for him we would have had civil war in Illinois from Cairo north to the doorsteps of Springfield. He put 500,000 men into the Union army, and 50,000 from Illinois alone.

Peace to his ashes; green be his memory, and all honor to every Douglas follower in that critical hour. They turned

the tide. They held the balance of power. They are entitled to honorable mention—every one.

“With malice toward none and charity for all,” call after call comes from the capital for troops. The call is not in vain. Massachusetts sends her noblest, New York puts forth her proudest, Ohio furnishes her bravest, California dispatches her boldest, Illinois forwards her best—Grierson, Ingersoll, Prentiss and Rawlins; Morrison, McClelland, Palmer and Black; Sullivan, Singleton and Lippincott and Mat Stark.

And here come all the heroes: Oglesby goes; Grant goes; Logan goes; Howard and Hancock, Sheridan and Sherman; Slocum, Sickles, Sigel and Wadsworth; Hooker and Burnside; Thomas and Franklin; hundreds more whose names we know; thousands more whose names are to us unknown; the whole grand heroic host. Mighty convulsion! The entire continent rocking to and fro! The battle cry of freedom ringing from ocean to ocean! Outbursts of loyalty shaking every northern commonwealth! Puritan and pioneer burning with patriotic zeal! “Government of, for, and by the people shall not perish.”

WOMAN'S SACRIFICE.

And, ah, let us not forget that there was a parting in a million homes. How often that parting was a parting forever, between sweetheart and lover, between sister and brother, between husband and wife, and between son and mother. Oh, for scarlet geraniums and sweet verbenas and purple violets to strew the graves of the lover and brother! Oh, for pure white jessamine and yellow buttercup and delicate heliotrope so to cover those of the sister and sweetheart, as fully and fittingly express the agony of that parting, the pitiful but unpitied throes of the battle death, and the untold suffering of those ruined loving lives at home. Oh, for begonia and petunia and hyacinth and fuschia and lily and rose for the mother and the wife whose son and husband went, then, from their embraces, away: First, to the city; further on to the camp; and, at last, to the nameless mound near the enemy's prison stockade. Sublime sacrifices, glorious and grand, tender and touching, beautiful and blessed. The frag-

rance of their memory hovers over us today like a benediction from the past:

Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead,
 Dear as the blood ye gave.
 No impious footstep here shall tread,
 The herbage of your grave.

When the complete history of the rebellion shall be finished, then will appear among the names, never to be forgotten, those of a bright company, the Morgan county women, who worked and wrought wonderfully throughout the rebellion.

I entertain the profound conviction that their services for their state and nation have given us all a new birth of freedom and that their grand example will in every hour of need be emulated by the sons of America, though the warlike power of the known world be embattled against her, through all the momentous future.

TOMORROWS TO COME.

To such old soldiers as may be present today let me, in conclusion say a word in behalf of "young America." In a sense we, like you, are at war. The contest is on with us. Hostile batteries are booming on every side. Enemies are now assailing us. The foes are ignorance and avarice and intemperance and vice. After ignorance is vanquished and labor's rights prevail over corporate avarice, we must establish temperance, and we must always at every point along our line and along our march press back vice and crime and fight them desperately with every method at every step. The young generation appeals to you for part of their needed counsel and guidance. Be to them their council of administration. Divide with them the store of your wisdom, your prudence, and your calm, clear judgment. You can help. Your outposts and your sons are in every place of prestige and of power. There are tomorrows to come, for you as well as for us. There is a vast room yet for the use of your splendid activities. You will yet be with us at least 20 years. Would it could be a hundred. Let us all together, as a people,

make them 20 years of victory and progress and prosperity and righteous, unequalled so that our nation shall be a national Union of American States, far in grandeur and in glory beyond any of the fondest anticipations in this the day of constant struggle and the hour of anxious combat.

CONCLUSION.

We are now about to close this wonderful afternoon which we have had together. As we do, and as we depart from this holy ground to address and devote ourselves to the tasks, the real downright hard work of life, let us not fail to realize what a privilege it is to our Nation, that the Nation has such places as this (and such men as have been talked about today) to inspire it, as it turns from this day forward to the great task remaining before it. This closes a mighty period and epoch.

In 1837—not 1857 or 1847, but 1837—Abraham Lincoln one day said:

“From 1777 to 1837—60 long years—the nation has thrived and grown greater in the visible presence of the surviving heroes and heroines of the revolution, the very sight of them inspiring us. But now, in 1837, these all are gone, with few exception, and the nation is closing the door upon the heroism of the past; and must now turn and face, without this inspiration, a future, which we can not know, and you can not know, and only God Himself can foretell.”

Even so, it is with us, now, in 1920. For another 60 years—1860 to 1920—we of this day and generation have lived and thrived and grown in the presence of heroism—1861-1865. But the heroes of that time, the jaunty young heroes, and the maidens they adored, have been overtaken by the storms and snows of many winters; and they who, eye alight, head erect, soul on high, were the finest, smartest, snappiest soldiers ever seen at any time, in any clime, beneath the shining sun—they are gray today and a little bent, a little stooped, a little tired of the long and tedious march, almost ready to say, as the dying Stonewall Jackson said with a last breath:

“Let us cross over the river and lie down in the shade of the trees.”

Very soon—very, very soon—we who are left will have to close the door and turn to the future without the inspiration we are getting here today. Let us highly resolve that we, in our turn, will keep alive the flame of patriotism on the nation's altar, not forgetting this glorious sight we behold here today.